

SNOHOMISH - SKYKOMISH CHINOOK

The four Snohomish basin Chinook stocks originally described in the 1992 SASSI have been reorganized into two stocks--Skykomish and Snoqualmie--following the Chinook population delineation used by the Puget Sound Technical Recovery Team (Puget Sound TRT 2001). The Skykomish Chinook stock combines the 1992 SASSI Snohomish summer, Wallace summer, and Bridal Veil Creek fall Chinook stocks and a portion of the Snohomish fall Chinook stock.

Stock Status

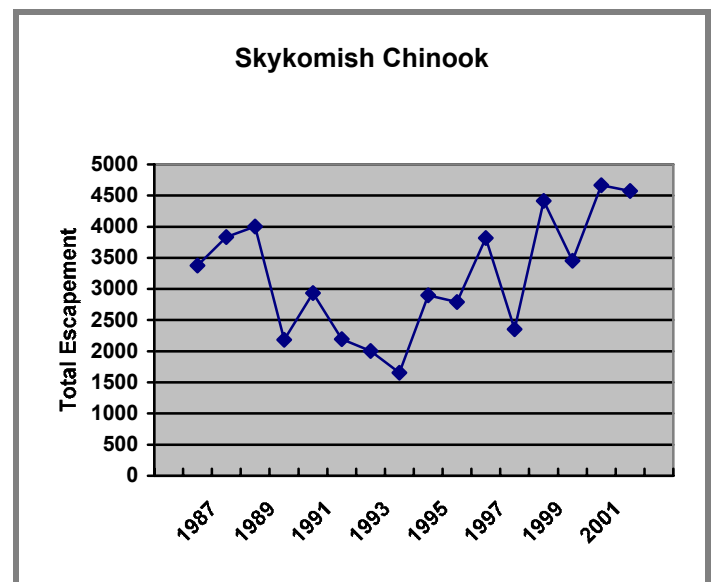
1992 STATUS
Not rated

2002 STATUS
Depressed

Stock Status Rating Data

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	3,377
1987	3,834
1988	4,004
1989	2,186
1990	2,932
1991	2,192
1992	2,002
1993	1,653
1994	2,898
1995	2,791
1996	3,819
1997	2,355
1998	4,412
1999	3,455
2000	4,665
2001	4,575



Data are total escapement estimates based on total redd counts for the basin plus Sunset Falls trap counts. Some increase in escapement has been shown in 2000-2001.

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 due primarily to low stock productivity. The mean number of spawners from brood years 1988 through 1997 is 2,687. The expected mean number of recruits would be 17,352, however the observed value is only 5,257 recruits. In addition, the mean escapement is less than the recovery goal of 8,700 spawners established for the stock by EDT analysis (Koenings and Williams 2002). The status of this stock is subject to change as values for recruits, provided by NOAA Fisheries, change during on-going analyses.

Stock Definition

Skykomish Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution and genetic composition (Puget Sound TRT 2001).

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SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Spawning takes place throughout the mainstem Skykomish and Snohomish rivers. Spawning also occurs in the Pilchuck River, Wallace River, Bridal Veil Creek, Sultan River, Elwell Creek, and in the North and South forks of the Skykomish, including spawning areas above Sunset Falls on the South Fork.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs mainly from September through October.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Allozyme analysis has shown that Skykomish summer Chinook are genetically distinct from all other Puget Sound Chinook stocks examined (Puget Sound TRT 2001).

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **composite** production. Green River-origin Chinook were released from Wallace Hatchery. However, that practice has been discontinued, and only Wallace River Chinook are now released.